



Carmen Goiricelaya, The International Institute of Connecticut
Testimony In Favor of Drivers' Licenses for Everyone
Monday, March 4, 2013 at 6:30 pm
Wilbur Cross High Schools, New Haven, CT, 06511

My name is Carmen Goiricelaya and I work for the International Institute of Connecticut. The Institute is a non-sectarian, nonprofit agency dedicated to helping refugees and immigrants resolve legal, social, educational, and linguistic barriers to self-sufficiency. Last year, the Institute served over 7,000 individuals representing 89 countries of origin, and from every county in Connecticut.

I am a proud Naturalized USC.

I was born and raised in Latin America, and since my arrival at the United States, I have had the honor and responsibility of working as an Immigration Case Manager at the International Institute of CT for the past 9 years.

During this time, I have had thousands of immigrant clients, documented and undocumented, and as the mission of our organization states, we try to help them to find the best solutions for their problems.

Our undocumented clients are here trying to provide a better life for their families. No matter if their families are here or far away from them, the motivation is the same. Their mission here is to work as much as they can, accepting odd jobs with irregular schedules and difficult locations, sometimes more than one job at the time, just to provide for their families.

For them, transportation for their jobs is a very important issue, and they do whatever they have to do to be at their job, keep their job and receive the payment they are going to use to support their families. They know that if they lose their job, that life for their families is going to be harsh, so they do as much as they can. They know that driving without a license puts them in danger, they can be arrested and presented before a court, but the need is bigger than the fear and they continue doing it.

Here we are today, to speak about something very important not only for the undocumented aliens, but for all the citizens of the State of CT, drivers licenses, and I want to make you think about the basic reasons why any driver in any place in our country should have one.

- 1.- If you want a drivers' license you need to learn about the transit laws and the right and wrong things you need to do to protect yourself and the other drivers. **YOU NEED TO PASS A TEST**
- 2.- If you want a drivers' license, you need to prove your abilities using a transportation machine, car, truck or bus. **YOU NEED TO PASS A TEST**
- 3.- If you get a drivers' license and you want to keep it, you need to follow the rules and regulations, **OR YOU CAN LOSE IT**
- 4.- If you want to buy, register and have a vehicle covered by insurance, you need to have a proper drivers' license. If you don't do it, **YOU CAN LOSE YOUR DRIVER LICENSE**

The most important of all those IFs is that if we do not give that opportunity to the undocumented immigrants they are going to **CONTINUE DRIVING WITHOUT A LICENSE**, because they need the

transportation, without any proper supervision of their knowledge, abilities and the proper insurance, increasing the danger to all the others that are driving in the State of CT.

The reality is there, it is our responsibility is to pay attention to it ...or ignore it. We should give to those physically present in our state the opportunity to get Drivers License and improve the quality of the drivers on the State of Connecticut roads.